



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, June 2, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-2530)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman,
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Candace Cooper,
Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen,
Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner Helen
Kleinberg, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin,
Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner
Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang
and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin

Call to Order. (14-2415)

Chair Berger called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of June 2, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-2416)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the June 2, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-2417)

**On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman
(Commissioners Kamlager, Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being
absent), this item was approved.**

DRAFT

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 28, 2014. (Continued from the meetings of 5-5-14 and 5-19-14) (14-2003)

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Cooper (Commissioners Kamlager, Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of May 5, 2014. (Continued from the meeting of 5-19-14) (14-2217)

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Kamlager, Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

5. Chair's report for June 2, 2014 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (14-2418)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **The Celebration '14 Honoring Academic Achievements of Foster Youth is being held on June 19, 2014 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Invitations were sent to Commissioners. Please let staff know if you are planning to attend.**
- **The Chief Executive Office's report on the recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection is scheduled on the Board of Supervisors Agenda for June 10, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Kamlager, Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted the Chair's report.

6. Department of Children and Family Services Director's report for June 2, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director. (14-2419)

Director Browning provided a brief update on pending legislation and the State Budget as it relates to child welfare and reported the following:

- **There are two funding proposals by the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) which provides Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) training on how to work with this population.**

- Recent discussions pertaining to the equitability of foster care payments to relative caregivers have occurred.
- Letters from County Boards of Supervisors and several entities have been sent to the State addressing unmet needs for consideration in the State's final budget. The final budget is expected to be heard on June 23, 2014.
- Counties were required to submit a letter of intent pertaining to the Title IV-E Waiver by Friday, June 6, 2014. A number of large counties have decided not to participate in the Title IV-E Waiver. Federal negotiations are ongoing.
- The DCFS Strategic Plan Update is scheduled on the Board of Supervisors Agenda for June 4, 2014. Some of the Strategic Objectives have been met, no longer requiring a Strategic Objective Team to meet. Approximately one-third of the Strategic Objectives have been met.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Kamlager, Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

7. Update on the Commission's activities.

- Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison (14-2478)

Ms. Drew Ivie reported the following:

- Commissioner Kleinberg has been attending the PEW Charitable Trust Foundation Home Visitation Collaborative meetings. Pew's Home Visitation Campaign is a public and private sector collaborative that researches and promotes home-based visitation programs for vulnerable families. The foundation has brought this initiative to a national level. The Department of Public Health has played a principal role on this initiative in the County. Additionally, LA Best Babies Network has conducted training for Home Visitors and the Children's Institute International is considering creating a training institute. One of the goals of the collaborative is to get Congress to allow Medicaid billing for Home Visitation. First 5 LA is moving forward with Home Visitation in First 5 Best Start Communities.
- Los Angeles Times featured an article by columnist Sandy Banks on

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) in the April 18, 2014 issue. The column is titled, "Even the best parents can use an assist in helping troubled children." Efforts are underway to have DCFS offer PCIT to families with unsubstantiated allegations of child abuse and/or neglect that may benefit from PCIT.

- Commissioner Sorkin and Ms. Drew Ivie attended the Systems Leadership Team's (SLT) Ad Hoc Committee's first standing meeting. Unspent Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) funding amounting to approximately \$20 million has been identified. This funding will be for one year. There is a balance of \$8 million subject to allocation after the initial \$20 million has been administered to certain areas. It is undetermined how the balance will be allocated.
- Vice Chair Friedman attended the public hearing on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan and made a statement in support of additional funding for training Social Workers on working with victims of sex trafficking.
- Commissioners Kleinberg and Curry have been involved in a collaborative committee with Public Counsel working on realignment issues, budget transparency, and equalization of funding support for kinship families. The committee is disbanding, however plans to create a subcommittee to evaluate how social service outcomes are measured.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Drew Ivie's report.

III. DISCUSSION

8. Discussion on the closure of the Juvenile Dependency Court's Mediation Services and Parents Beyond Conflict Programs. (14-2475)

Colleen Friend, Ph. D, LCSW, Director of California State University Los Angeles (CSULA) Child Abuse and Family Violence Institute provided a brief history of the Juvenile Dependency Court 's Mediation Services and reported the following:

- Juvenile Dependency Court recently closed its Mediation Services and Parents Beyond Conflict Program at the end of May. Mediation has a 90 percent settlement rate and research has shown a reduction in trauma for children by not subjecting the child to testifying. Mediation Services provides families a voice and a sense that they are heard. Families

acknowledge that there is a need for change which facilitates cooperation with the case planning. There have been no cases that have come through Los Angeles County Mediation Services that involve a subsequent child fatality or re-injury.

- Juvenile Court Judge Amy M. Pellman authored a letter to Judges David Wesley, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles and Carolyn Kuhl, Assistant Presiding Judge expressing deep concerns about the elimination of these services. Several Judicial Officers at the Edelman Children's Court and Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center signed this letter. Juvenile Judge Michael Nash is working towards restoring these services. It is recommended that Sherri R. Carter, Superior Court Executive Officer/Clerk be included in any correspondence on this matter.
- The Parents Beyond Conflict Program is a five week program for parents that demonstrate anger management issues in the courtroom. The Program teaches the parent appropriate behavior and effective ways to communicate and solve problems to minimize any negative effects on their children.

Ivy Carey of the Children's Law Center clarified that the decision to close Mediation Services and the Parents Beyond Conflict Program was not made by Judge Nash. She also suggested Sherri R. Carter as a person to be in contact with regarding the restoration of these services. There has been an impact to the courts with the elimination of Mediation Services in the length of time it takes to reach disposition.

The Commission recommended providing a cost savings analysis that supports the restoration of these services.

Commissioner Cooper explained that the Superior Courts have undergone severe budget cuts over the years. Several hundreds of court employees have been let go and facilities have closed. Courts are now grossly underfunded. The Court System was previously funded through the counties and then moved to State funding.

The Commission requested Dr. Friend to provide facts supporting the efficacy of Mediation Services.

Commissioner Cooper agreed to do research on this closure and asked if other Commissioners were interested in this initiative. Commissioners Curry, Kamlager and Vice Chair Friedman volunteered.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Dr. Friend's report.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-2420)

The following items were introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting:

- 9A. Recommendation as submitted by Chair Berger: Discussion to add an additional Commission meeting for the month of September, 2014 to be held at the meeting of June 16, 2014. (14-2697)

On motion of Chair Berger and by common consent, there being no objection, (Commissioners Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent) this item was introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda of June 16, 2014.

- 9B. Recommendation as submitted by Chair Berger: Discussion of 2014-15 Election of Officers date. (14-2698)

On motion of Chair Berger and by common consent, there being no objection, (Commissioners Kang, Shevlin, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent) this item was introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda of June 16, 2014.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of June 2, 2014. (14-2421)

Chair Berger announced that Becky Shevlin submitted her resignation as Commissioner on June 2, 2014.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-2422)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment of the meeting of June 2, 2014. (14-2423)

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.